

Demand for Trust Investigation.

The Washington Times gives the following account of a petition just filed with the attorney-general:

The American anti-trust league, at a meeting last night, decided to approach once more the attorney-general of the United States, through a petition, upon the trust question, and a lengthy communication was prepared and forwarded to Mr. Knox, which the league is confident will result in some action upon the part of the department of justice. The petition is in response to the letter of the attorney-general in reply to a former communication of the league, and contains an answer to Mr. Knox, who, in that statement to the anti-trust league, stated that the duty of the department of justice is to enforce the federal statutes as interpreted by the courts, whenever there is cause for believing that they have been violated. In the petition addressed to the attorney-general last night, the anti-trust league submitted the "probable" cause demanded by Mr. Knox. Some action on the part of the attorney-general in the matter is demanded.

The anti-trust league has been at work for some time upon the petition which was submitted to the attorney-general last night. After the letter from the latter in reply to the first communication, the statement was made by the anti-trust league that the matter had been by no means settled, and that further action would be taken. It was said that the attorney-general could be compelled to take action upon the data to be furnished by the anti-trust league.

It is understood that at the department of justice the matter was supposed to have been settled by the letter of the attorney-general, in which he declined to take any action, but the action of the anti-trust league last night has opened the question once more.

Henry B. Martin, chairman of the anti-trust league, in speaking of the latest action of the league, said that the fight would be continued until the league was successful in having the attorney-general take action against the trusts. The communication, as adopted last night, with the pointed letter to the attorney-general, is as follows:

To the Honorable Philander C. Knox, Attorney-General of the United States, Washington, D. C.:

Sir: In response to your communication of August 20, 1901, in which you say the duty of your department and its "object to enforce the federal statutes as interpreted by the courts, wherever there is probable cause for believing they have been violated," we herewith hand you the enclosed petition, in which the probable cause demanded is set forth for your action.

Very respectfully yours,

H. B. MARTIN,

Chairman.

WILLIAM L. DEWART,

Secretary.

Joint Committee American Anti-Trust League and District Assembly 66, Knights of Labor.

The petition of the joint committee recites that the American anti-trust league is an organization non-partisan in its character, numerous in its membership in various parts of the United States, having for its objects, among other things, to secure the enforcement of the existing state and federal statutes against trusts and monopolies, and furnish such evidence of the violation of such statutes to the officers whose duties are to enforce these laws and to co-operate with such prosecuting officers of the various states and the United States for the enforcement of these laws; and that the district assembly 66 of the Knights of Labor is also a non-partisan body, engaged in various trades and crafts within the District of Columbia, whose object is to protect the rights and interests of the wage-working wealth producers from unlawful aggressions and encroachments on the part of great com-

binations of capital, whether in the form of a trust or otherwise.

The petition states in part:

Your petitioners would show that the United States Steel corporation seems to your petitioners to exist, subsist, and persist in violation of law, and that its principals, agents, promoters, and managers are a combination who conspire to restrain—and they do restrain—and monopolize and attempt to monopolize trade and commerce between the states and territories and the District of Columbia and in the territories or the District of Columbia and with foreign nations.

The petition further declares that "at various times prior to February 23, 1901, certain alien capitalists, aided by American co-conspirators, among whom are and were Andrew Carnegie, J. P. Morgan & Co., American agents of the house of Rothschild; Charles C. Cluff, William J. Curtis, Charles MacVeagh, John D. Rockefeller, Charles M. Schwab, Henry C. Frick, and others did, under the alleged protection of the state of New Jersey, in violation of the constitution and laws of the United States, enter into an unlawful 'arrangement,' in violation of the 'anti-trust law,' as it is commonly called, enacted July 2, 1890, the interstate commerce law of 1887, and the act to reduce taxation and provide revenue for the government and for other purposes, which became a law in 1894."

The co-conspirators, it is charged, made the "arrangement," contract, combination, and conspiracy in restraint of trade and commerce.

The petition further charges that "the syndicated conspiracy includes certain American capitalists, who unite and combine with the European capitalists to share with them the spoilation of the people of the United States, based upon the 'acquisition of the holdings of the said Andrew Carnegie' and the stock and bonds of the Carnegie company, and the stocks and bonds of the following companies, to-wit, of the Federal Steel company, of the American Steel and Wire company of New Jersey, of the National Tube company, of the American Tin Plate company, of the National Steel company, of the American Steel Hoop company, and of the American Steel company, which, on his oath before the United States industrial commission, the said Charles M. Schwab deposed to be a 'consolidation' of artificial and other persons in the shape of the United States Steel corporation, by agreement between it and the above-named seven constituent companies, to none and to neither of which does the incorporating certificate grant such a right to consolidate the said 'consolidation,' therefore, being illegal and the said United States Steel corporation being, therefore, non-existent by law and subject to dissolution by a court having jurisdiction, and that the co-conspirators agreed that whenever by the consummation of the proposed 'arrangement' the amount of dividends shall cease to be substantially increased the greater stability of investment will be assured by 'necessarily increasing the prices of manufactured products.' All of these facts appear in the prospectus of the said syndicate managers, J. P. Morgan & Co., dated March 2, 1901, as exhibit 1 on page 455 of a public document, entitled 'Testimony, Trusts, and Industrial Combinations,' and also in exhibit 2 of said document, which is a copy of the amended certificate of incorporation of the said United States Steel corporation, in which the said state of New Jersey, excepting herself from the operation of said law by forbidding corporations to operate or maintain railroads and canals

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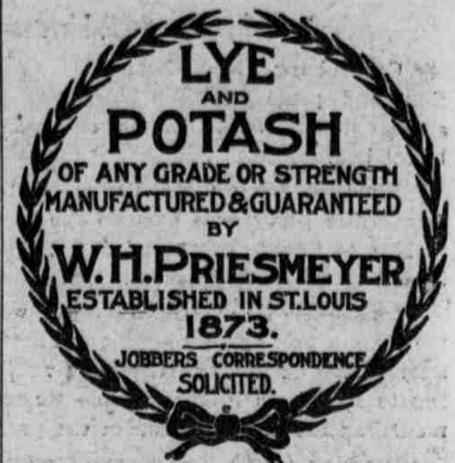
within her own borders, assumes to give eminent domain to the corporation everywhere else in the country except in New Jersey, and further subjects a greater part of the metal and mineral products in the United States and territories; and manganese (an imported metaloid) and every transport thereof by land and water to the corporation and its extension and 'business,' contrary to the constitution and laws of the United States and of each of them and contrary to 'public policy,' private rights and the stability of the republic of America."

The testimony of President Charles M. Schwab, of the United States Steel corporation, delivered before the United States industrial commission, May 11, 1901, is quoted from page 465 of "Testimony, Trusts, and Industrial Combinations," regarding a question by Commissioner Farquhar, that the United States Steel corporation controls 80 per cent of the whole manufactured product of this country. There is also given the admission of the witness that the corporation practically controls the transportation of raw materials on the lakes. The argument is then advanced that, in view of the fact that the Carnegie company is only one of the constituent companies of the United States Steel corporation, that President Schwab's testimony is almost conclusive evidence that the Steel trust is monopolizing or attempting to monopolize a part of the trade or commerce among the several states and with foreign nations.

The petition further declares that among those who have conspired and are thus conspiring as aforesaid in the form of trust and otherwise are the Armor Plate trust or combination, which has been for some years past composed of the Carnegie Steel corporation and the Bethlehem Steel company; that its constituent members and its managers have combined and conspired not only to monopolize the general trade and commerce in armor plate, but have conspired and combined "to so monopolize the commerce in armor plate among the several states and with foreign nations that they have been able to and did extort from the people and government of the United States, such an exorbitant price from the national government and people of the United States, that they sold armor plate which cost less than \$200 per ton to the said government of the United States for the sum of \$520 per ton."

It is further charged that "the said Carnegie company, and the said Bethlehem company, who combined and conspired to form the said Armor Plate trust, conspiracy, or combine, are now combined in violation of the laws of the United States into the hands of one combination, and they are the same combination which now controls the United States Steel corporation, and that they are still monopolizing the trade and commerce in armor plate, and still charging the government the aforesaid exorbitant prices as a result of their being able to monopolize the trade and commerce in armor plate."

An excerpt from Secretary Long's official report for 1897, is given, quoting the "friendly understanding among armor contractors both in Europe and America as to the prices to be charged for armor," the agreement with each other as to prices, and the division of the contracts of this government between them, each bidding lower than the other for one-half of the armor required at any time by the government. The acceptance of a Russian contract for manufacturing armor for one ship at the very low price of \$249 per ton, this armor to be both nicked and Harveyed, and to be delivered in Russia, the company agreeing at the same time to manufacture the armor for two other ships, if required, at the same price, is referred to. The Russian government afterward did require armor for the other two ships, and taken altogether, the armor for the

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three amounted to about 1,400 tons. The petitioners further name, in addition to "the aforesaid violators," John D. Rockefeller and others, and the Standard Oil company, among the managers, directors, and officers of which are John D. Rockefeller, H. M. Flagler, H. H. Rogers, John D. Archbold, William Rockefeller and others who have combined, contracted, and conspired together under the name of the Standard Oil company, the Home Oil company, the National Transit company, and otherwise, to monopolize and restrain trade and commerce in crude and refined petroleum and its by-products; the anthracite coal combine and its members, among whom are the aforesaid J. P. Morgan, William Rockefeller, and others, in anthracite coal; J. P. Morgan & Co., the American agents of Rothschild, John D. Rockefeller and William Rockefeller, also William K. Vanderbilt, James J. Hill, E. H. Harriman, George J. Gould, Russell Sage, A. J. Cassatt, and numerous railroad corporations, their owners, and their principal stockholders, directors, and managers, and officers, and certain bankers, including the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., the National City Bank of New York, Kuhn, Loeb & Co., the First National Bank of New York, and the First National Bank of Chicago, and others, to restrain and monopolize the railroad

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